



PENTECOST  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

God, from my youth  
you have taught me.

— PSALM 71:17



*Building a Life  
of Faith*

2018

**LEADER'S GUIDE**  
APRIL 2–MAY 20



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

*Thank you!*

... for your energy and support in promoting the Pentecost Offering. Let us celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise to us through the coming of the Holy Spirit by guiding our young people toward a brighter, faith-filled future.

**PLEASE FEEL WELCOME TO GET IN TOUCH IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP!**

**Special Offerings**

800-728-7228, Ext. 5047  
specialofferings@pcusa.org  
presbyterianmission.org/specialofferings

**Child Advocacy/Children at Risk**

Alonzo Johnson  
800-728-7228, Ext. 5780  
alonzo.johnson@pcusa.org  
presbyterianmission.org/children

**Ministries with Youth**

Gina Yeager-Buckley  
800-728-7228, Ext. 5497  
gina.yeager@pcusa.org  
presbyterianmission.org/youthministry

**Young Adult Volunteers**

Blake Collins, Associate for  
Recruitment & Relationships  
800-728-7228, Ext. 5300  
blake.collins@pcusa.org  
youngadultvolunteers.org  
@yavprogram

**Standing Orders**

Presbyterian Customer Service  
800-533-4371  
customer\_service@presbypub.com

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**EASY WAYS TO STAY UP-TO-DATE ON ALL THINGS SPECIAL OFFERINGS.**

Stay up-to-date on all things Special Offerings by subscribing to the Special Offerings blog, "liking" the Special Offerings Facebook page, or following Special Offerings on Twitter. Update your congregation throughout the year on how the money is being used.

 BLOG | [pcusa.org/blogs/Weekly\\_Offerings](http://pcusa.org/blogs/Weekly_Offerings)

 TWITTER | [twitter.com/pcusa\\_so](https://twitter.com/pcusa_so)

 FACEBOOK | [facebook.com/specialofferings](https://facebook.com/specialofferings)



2018

**LEADER'S GUIDE**  
APRIL 2-MAY 20

## WHAT'S IN A LEADER'S GUIDE?

This tool was created for you.

As one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

You have likely received a shipment of Offering materials. These are to help your church members learn and understand the work supported by their gifts and motivate them to give. Please distribute these resources and help us share the important message of building a life of faith.

This guide also includes examples of effective ways to promote and celebrate the Pentecost Offering. But don't feel limited! Your enthusiasm and creativity are invaluable to this cause.

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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**



## PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

### THE PENTECOST OFFERING HELPS OUR YOUTH BEGIN LIFE WITH A STRONG START—A SOLID FOUNDATION OF FAITH FORMED IN THE FIRST THIRD OF LIFE, FROM CHILDHOOD THROUGH YOUNG ADULTHOOD.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with *the church of the past*, continuing to inspire *the church of today*, and pointing us to *the church of the future*. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By giving to the Pentecost Offering, your congregation participates in helping our children, youth, and young adults grow up to proclaim with the Psalmist, “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.”

#### QUICK FACTS

- ❖ Congregations keep 40% of raised funds to initiate or support programs for young people in their communities.
- ❖ The first Presbyterian Youth Triennium was held in 1980.
- ❖ The Day of Pentecost is referred to as the birthday of the Church.
- ❖ Pentecost is usually represented with the color red, which symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$14 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God's family. We believe we are called to do even more — to support and care for young people as they build a strong foundation of faith.

1998-2018

# 1 YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

## Congregational Initiatives with Young People

**40%** of the Pentecost Offering remains with your congregation to support ministries with children and youth in your church and local community. Churches have used these funds to:

Run an affordable day care for young teen mothers to enable them to complete their education.

Identify and train local leaders for participation in the “*Educate a Child: Transform the World*” national initiative.

Conduct workshops and presentations, and develop resources to end child sex and labor trafficking.

Help promote the National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths.

Create web and print resources to address systemic issues that impact children, such as poverty, health, and consumerism.

Initiate local, afterschool or summer programs for latchkey children.

*See page 6 to learn how other congregations have been inspired to use their portion of the Pentecost Offering.*

## Serving Communities (Young Adult Volunteers)

**25%** goes to **Young Adult Volunteer (YAV)** experience. Your gifts to the Offering have helped this ministry area to:

Train and equip volunteers to engage in mission at more than 20 sites in the U.S. and around the world.

Reduce barriers to serve by providing assistance with student loan debt, medical insurance, and a simple living stipend.

Provide additional funding to ensure all young adults have the opportunity to participate.

Provide funds for retreats, orientation events, and counseling to help YAVs discern God’s call.

## Guiding Youth (Youth Ministries)

**25%** supports **ministries with youth**, ages 12–18, and those called to accompany them. Your gifts to the Offering helped this ministry area to:

Fund the design of a new Christian Formation endeavor called *The Senior Project*. This project offers a path and plan for graduating seniors to explore their next steps in faith, community, and vocation.

Provide a grant to the Presbyterian Youth Workers’ Association—a professional association for paid and volunteer adult youth leaders seeking to serve God in their work with young people. Learn more at [www.pywa.org](http://www.pywa.org)

Sponsor a meeting of the governing board of the Presbyterian Youth Workers’ Association.

Create new **Quicksheets**—free, downloadable resources for youth ministry, covering a wide variety of relevant, insightful topics.

Fund the design and translation of Spanish Language Quicksheets [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/youthministry](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/youthministry)

Support the planning of the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium!

Enable the **Office of Ministries with Youth** to serve the denomination by providing free, low cost/no cost, digital resources, consultation and connection.

Support Faith in 3D 2017. An event held over the MLK Observance weekend in January 2017 — that brought together over 2000 youth to explore faith, discipleship and justice.

Provide partnership funding for the daily digital devotion at [www.d365.org](http://www.d365.org)

## Child Advocacy

**10%** supports the “*Educate a Child, Transform the World*” national initiative, which was affirmed at the 221st General Assembly (2014). The goal of this initiative is to motivate and inspire Presbyterians to better the lives of one million children by 2020.

## 2 MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### IDEAS FROM OUR CONGREGATIONS

Inspire your congregation to give by sharing some of the ways other churches have used their 40% of the Pentecost Offering on behalf of children, youth, and young adults in their communities:

#### *Assisting the Families of Children at Risk*

Providing financial support to local homeless shelters.

Supporting a program that pairs children with disabilities such as autism with children who do not, where strengths are celebrated and differences are accepted.

Creating, promoting, and expanding services for grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the responsibility of surrogate parenting due to the absence of parents.

#### *Supporting Education for At-Risk Youth*

Providing vouchers for new school shoes.

Collecting and providing school supplies.

Providing training for volunteers for the Child and Youth Protection Policy.

#### *Growing Mission Work with Youth and Young Adults*

Contributing to the congregation's own children and youth fund.

Supporting college outreach ministries.

Providing scholarships to summer camps.

Supporting the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program within the local presbytery.

#### *Ministering to Children and At-Risk Teens*

Contributing and volunteering at an affordable day care ministry for teen parents.

Contributing to a school backpack program so low-income children get the nutritious foods they need when school is not in session.

Supporting a program that builds the self-esteem of black, male, teens through education and service.

Providing guidance for teenage girls through a program that teaches health, exercise, nutrition, self-esteem and offers a safe place to discuss issues affecting young girls.

Contributing to a center for children of abused spouses.

Providing a weekly Wednesday night meal free of charge.

Offering funds to an anti-bullying program at the local elementary school.

#### *Providing for Health and Safety*

Providing assistance to teen pregnancy resource centers.

Supporting or creating a program that packages nutritious, life-saving meals for starving or malnourished children and their families in developing countries and the United States.

Contributing funds to programs that improve the lives of foster children with school supplies, toys, and a suitcase so they don't have to travel from home to home with their belongings in a trash bag.

## 3 PROMOTING THE OFFERING BEFORE THE OFFERING

### PLAN

Life is easier when a plan is in place. If you make arrangements ahead of time, promotion will go more smoothly, and you'll make the most of every opportunity to motivate your congregation to share and support the Pentecost Offering.

- ❖ **Set dates with your session.** Congregations commonly receive the Offering on Pentecost Sunday (May 20) or other youth-focused Sundays (such as Youth in the Church and World on August 19), or during Vacation Bible School.
- ❖ **Commit to a goal with the session**—one higher than the total raised last year—and discuss ideas on how to use your congregation's portion (40%).
- ❖ **Contact Presbyterian Customer Service** 800-533-4371 or [customer\\_service@presbypub.com](mailto:customer_service@presbypub.com) to order any additional materials you may need.
- ❖ **Locate and open the shipment of materials you received.** Display the Pentecost poster in a prominent place within your church. Find other tools to help with developing your interpretation plan by reviewing the outline of available resources on page 16.
- ❖ **Share “Ways to Involve Children and Youth”** with your Christian education and worship committees. Learn more at [presbyterianmission.org/pentecost](http://presbyterianmission.org/pentecost)
- ❖ **Ask young people to present Minutes for Mission** from the pulpit. Note the bulletins feature unique messages that expand on specific Minutes for Mission (pages 11-15, feel free to pair as you like). Minutes for Mission can also be downloaded at [presbyterianmission.org/pentecost](http://presbyterianmission.org/pentecost)
- ❖ **Ask your pastor about sending a promotional email or letter** to each person in your congregation (there is a sample pastor letter online). Be sure to include the link to the Pentecost Offering website ([presbyterianmission.org/pentecost](http://presbyterianmission.org/pentecost)), so your members can learn more about the work supported by their gifts.
- ❖ **Use the curriculum** from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog to get people involved and to give examples of how the Mission Agency uses some of its funds. [specialofferings.pcusa.org/pgcdownload](http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/pgcdownload)

## BE CREATIVE

Though we've laid out a plan for you, your creativity and voice is an important part of this process. We'll never know your congregation the way you do. What kind of activities do they love?

- ❖ **Ask for suggestions** from the youth and young adults in your congregation about how to use the 40% kept by your congregation.
- ❖ **Think** about how you can integrate the worship resources into your service holistically rather than treating them as add-ons. Doing this emphasizes the role our witness in the world plays in our own discipleship.
- ❖ **Create a plan for involving children and youth** in promoting the Offering through a skit or other worship activity. One option is having your youth choose one of the Pentecost-supported gifts from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog to sponsor, and present it to the congregation along with how they think their gift will make a difference for others.

*You can find additional resources to help you plan your Offering interpretation on page 16.*



PHOTO: FAITH IN 3D



## 4 DURING THE OFFERING

### PLAN

- ✦ **Hang the Offering poster** in a prominent location, if you have not already created a display.
- ✦ **Place a folded insert in the Sunday bulletin every week.** There are two inserts — *Building A Life of Faith* and *Transforming Spirit* — this year. Feel free to use the same bulletin for multiple weeks if you are promoting all month.
- ✦ **Put Offering envelopes in pew racks** every week.
- ✦ **Present Minutes for Mission**, and encourage your members to give generously, with reminders of the goal you set with the session.
- ✦ **Use the worship resources** found on our website, including a set of customizable power point slides, and focus on the Offering in a sermon.
- ✦ **Involve children and youth**—ask them to hand out bulletin inserts as an alternative to placing them in pews.
- ✦ **Promote the Offering** on your church’s Facebook page with the Pentecost cover photo.
- ✦ **Use the provided art**, graphics, and content in your church newsletter, blog, or website.
- ✦ **Send a letter to your congregation from the pastor** (a customizable letter can be found online). This provides members who might have missed the Offering collection a chance to support the ministry. Be sure to include the link to the Pentecost Offering website ([presbyterianmission.org/pentecost](https://presbyterianmission.org/pentecost)), so members can learn more about the work supported by their gifts.
- ✦ **Ask your pastor** about sending a reminder email or letter to each person in your congregation, encouraging generous support. (Surveys show this makes a significant difference in congregant giving.)



### THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE



Through your congregation



Text YOUNG to 20222 to give \$10



[presbyterianmission.org/pentecost](https://presbyterianmission.org/pentecost)

## 5 AFTER THE OFFERING

- ❖ **Thank your congregation** for their generous gifts and share the total raised. Celebrate meeting or exceeding your original goal! Remind them of the causes they have supported: Ministries with Youth, Young Adult Volunteers, and advocacy and education for children at risk.
- ❖ **Keep 40%** of the Offering for your congregation's use on behalf of local, youth-focused ministries and programs. See page 5 for ideas, and share how the retained portion will be used.
- ❖ **Send in the remaining 60%** as your congregation's offering. At the direction of the 220th General Assembly (2012), congregations are encouraged to remit Pentecost gifts directly to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, with "Pentecost Offering" on the memo line.  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
PO Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

*The Agency will record and notify presbyteries of congregational donations.*

Congregations may continue to remit to their normal receiving agency if so desired.

### *Share your stories with us!*

We'd love to hear the unique ways you promoted the Pentecost Offering. Email [specialofferings@pcusa.org](mailto:specialofferings@pcusa.org) to share your story with the wider church.

### *Together We Rise*

Our youth choose who we give our Pentecost funds to and they chose "Together We Rise," which is comprised of young adults and former foster youth whose vision is to improve the lives of foster children in America. They have been able to provide new bikes, college supplies, and suitcases so that children do not have to travel from home to home with their belongings in a trash bag.

— Carol Brimer, mission team,  
First Presbyterian Church,  
Crown Point, Indiana

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### THE PENTECOST OFFERING—BUILDING A LIFE OF FAITH

*“God, from my youth you have taught me.”  
— Psalm 71:17*



PHOTO: KRISTEN YOUNG

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a churchwide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future.

Studies show that a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. Psalm 71 testifies to this same truth. Verse 17 says, “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.” The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person’s life.

These lessons might be taught through a congregation’s commitment to Educate a Child, Transform the World in ministries that shape a child’s academic achievement, setting them on a path toward a stable future. They might be taught through one of the youth events sponsored by Ministries with Youth at the national church that bring together young people from all over the country to share their experiences of faith with one another and learn how their faith can help them address challenges all over the world. Or our young

adults may be guided through a year of intentional service where they discern God’s call upon their lives by our Young Adult Volunteer Program.

And there is more—Presbyterian congregations are finding new ways to minister to children at risk in their own communities. General Assembly programs are advocating for children and developing youth and young adult leaders.

By giving to the Pentecost Offering, we are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults. Our congregation is joining the whole church in building for our future, in building individual lives of faith. Won’t you join with your support? If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

*Let us pray ~*

*Transforming Spirit, bless our  
children, youth, and young adults  
with a faith that grows  
their whole lives long.  
May these gifts we offer  
shape the future of your Church.  
Amen.*

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### BUILDING LIVES IN FAITH, SERVING IN THE SPIRIT OF PENTECOST

PHOTO: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOMEWOOD



This year marks the 20th year of Presbyterians worldwide coming together to celebrate serving in the spirit of Pentecost, coming together to build lives in faith. The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

With this in mind, I want to share a story with you that starts with another celebration — the 2008 celebration of 150 years of ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Homewood, Illinois.

As it looked toward future opportunities, the congregation decided one focus should be children considered at risk; those being served by the nearby Jones Memorial Community Center. A steady stream of First Presbyterian volunteers visit Jones Center weekly to tutor in the after-school program, work in the children's library, and help with other activities. The commitment the congregation made to children during its anniversary year continues 10 years later.

Karen Maurer is a retired early childhood educator and volunteer, who tutors children in math and reading — and so much more. She says providing moral and emotional support alongside academics is crucial.

“Most aren't from great home situations, and they often come to the tutoring program after a stressful school day,” she says.

Another Homewood member, Chris Dederer, led a children's choir and taught piano classes for nearly a decade at Jones Center.

He says an “inner desire to be missional” and a love of teaching prompted him to work with children who had few other opportunities to learn music. “I sought to lay a foundation in these children's lives and give them an opportunity to see a positive male role model,” says Chris, a professional church musician. “I'm not sure how many of these kids have that in their lives.”

Nancy Jo Dederer, pastor of First Presbyterian, says congregations open themselves to the “joy of ministry” when they decide to serve children where they are. And doesn't that ring true for us all. Indeed, it does.

Through the Pentecost Offering, congregations share Christ's love in their communities and around the world. Please give generously and support the future of our young people.

*Let us pray ~*

*Gracious God, We pray that all children will be able to reach the potential you gave them.*

*We are grateful for those who work alongside children at risk and give them hope.*

*Give all of us the faith and courage to stand up for children and help build a brighter future for them.*

*Amen.*

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### FAITH IN 3D WEEKEND HELPS YOUTH SEE NEW DIMENSIONS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

Supporting youth in building a foundation of faith... what a wonderful thing, and what a special part of serving in the Spirit during Pentecost. Studies show that a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Let me tell you about a wonderful experience, a faith-building experience, for youth across the nation, thanks in part to our Pentecost Offering.

Last year, more than 2,000 youth from three denominations, including the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) saw a snapshot of the world through the lens of faith at the Faith in 3D weekend at Walt Disney World's Epcot. Participants were urged to consider how their faith impacts the way they live in a world made smaller by the forces of globalization.

"We had discussions with the kids about what it means to be a Christian in the global world, and to be a global citizen," says Adam Bowling, associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Morganton, N.C. "We talked about what it means to love your neighbor and what 'being a neighbor' means. We discussed international mission partnerships and partnerships with mission co-workers."

Held on the weekend when America was honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Faith in 3D wove King's themes of the beloved community and nonviolent change throughout the programming.

Mason Streppa, a high school junior from First Presbyterian, Morganton, said he was struck by the relevance of King's message for the present day. "What he said back then, about racial justice, is still very much on the minds of people today, and it is still being heard today," he said.

Mason's involvement at Faith in 3D set him on a course that led to his ordination as a youth deacon for mission and outreach. Prior to his ordination, he went to Guatemala on his first international mission trip and discovered that what he had learned at Faith in 3D proved helpful. "At Faith in 3D, I was able to stick my foot in the water of foreign cultures," Mason says. "When I got to Guatemala, things started coming back to me from Faith in 3D about the different cultures, languages, and food."

The Pentecost Offering helped make these life-changing experiences possible. Sixty percent of the Offering goes to the national church to support ministries with youth as well as children at risk and Young Adult Volunteers. Forty percent of the offering is retained by our congregation.

By supporting the Pentecost Offering, we are helping to shape a positive future for young lives, for our church, and for our world. Please give generously.

*Let us pray ~*

*God of the Future, We give thanks for  
young people who commit themselves  
to your vision for our world.*

*Encourage them and strengthen them as  
they work for your purposes.*

*Help all of us to be faithful disciples who  
listen for your call and do your will.*

*Amen.*

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### PRESBYTERIAN YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEER SAW LIVES RENEWED IN PERU

One day at lunch, 14-year-old Teresa pointed to the camera of Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Kristen Young and called it Kristen's "treasure."

"I tried to tell her that it wasn't my camera that I treasured, but rather the people and moments I could capture with it," Kristen says.

Kristen served in Peru at a shelter for young survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence, where Teresa was a resident. Kristen's responsibilities included helping to promote the shelter's work to supporters, so she spent much of her time taking pictures.

The images she captured through her camera lens are etched in her mind. She remembers the face of Diana who came to the shelter scared and refusing to smile. As the days passed, Diana's somber countenance began to brighten as she experienced the warmth and acceptance of the shelter staff. Kristen was especially moved when she saw the delight Diana took in her newborn son.

"It was really a transformative moment to see how she came to feel about herself and her baby," Kristen says. It was a moment that gave witness to the opening words of a song frequently sung at the shelter: "The Spirit of God is in this place; the Spirit of God moves in this place."

She saw the Spirit move when teen moms who were raised in abusive homes learned to be caring and conscientious parents. She saw God at work as shelter residents graduated high school, went on to further study, and took steps toward independent living.

Kristen completed her year of YAV service in 2017, but she continues to see the Spirit move back home in Hawaii. Thanks to a grant from the Presbytery of the Pacific, Kristen is involved in a 10-month internship working with Micronesian youth at Lāna'i Union Church in Lanai City, Hawaii.

In her ministry, she is inspired by what she learned in Peru. "God is not just in church," she says. "Much of the time, we find God outside the church." She stresses the need to work for the kind of world God wants and urges the youth to nurture their relationships with God and others.

"I am so grateful for all of the support, encouragement, and generosity that made it possible for me to serve as a Young Adult Volunteer," Kristen says.

Through your gifts to the Pentecost Offering, you support Young Adult Volunteers who experience God's Spirit in new ways and who return home ready to serve. You are helping to change lives and prepare leaders. Sixty percent of the Offering goes to the national offices to support the YAV program, ministries with youth, and the needs of children at risk. Forty percent is retained by our congregation for local ministries that empower individuals in this crucial first third of life.

Please give generously to this offering and support the future of our young people.

*Let us pray ~*

*Transforming God, We give you thanks  
that your Spirit is at work all around us.*

*We celebrate that lives are changed and  
hope is renewed by your hand.*

*Gives us eyes to see the work of your Spirit  
and hearts to follow your Spirit's call.*

*Amen*

To learn more about Kristen, go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/yav-new/kristen-young/>

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### TRANSFORMATIVE MINISTRIES SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE AN IMPACT FAR AND NEAR

The same Spirit that descended on the earliest followers of Jesus on the Day of Pentecost continues to work in the lives of believers today. Across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), people are hearing and following the Holy Spirit's call to be the hands and feet of Jesus in today's world with help from the Pentecost Offering. The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Here are some examples of how your gifts are having a far-reaching impact.

For nearly a decade, the First Presbyterian Church in Homewood, Illinois has sent a steady stream of volunteers to the nearby Jones Memorial Community Center, whose mission is to strengthen family ties, emphasize the worth of God's children (all persons), and answer a community need.

Karen Maurer is one of the members who regularly tutors children in math and reading in the after-school program — and also provides moral and emotional support. “Most aren't from great home situations, and they often come to the tutoring program after a stressful school day,” she says.

First Presbyterian also supports Jones Center with gifts received from its Pentecost Offering. Congregations, like ours, keep 40% of the Pentecost offering to invest in youth in our own communities.

(INSERT... “THIS IS WHAT WE DO HERE”...  
PASTOR MAY CUSTOMIZE)

The Young Adult Volunteer program offers, what is for many, a life-changing experience. Young Adult Volunteers work for one year at sites around the world and across the United States to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation while exploring the meaning and motivation of their faith in an intentional community with peers and mentors.

Last year, your Pentecost Offering gifts helped Kristen Young serve at a shelter in Peru for young survivors of sexual and domestic violence. One of her most poignant memories is of Diana, who came to the shelter scared

and refusing to smile. As the days passed, Diana's somber countenance began to brighten. Kristen said Diana's transformation gave witness to the opening words of a song that is frequently sung at the shelter: “The Spirit of God is in this place; the Spirit of God moves in this place.”

Closer to home, God's Spirit was moving last year among the 2,000 youth who attended Faith in 3D, a youth conference in Florida. Held on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, the event weaves together Dr. King's teachings on the beloved community and nonviolent change with the challenges of discipleship in a world made smaller by the forces of globalization.

Adam Bowling, associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Morganton, North Carolina, has taken three different youth groups to Faith in 3D since 2009. “The preaching is always excellent, and it provides a witness to Dr. King's legacy and the plan and dreams God has for you.” He has seen youth reorder their priorities and even change their career ambitions after attending Faith in 3D.

A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood, helps ensure lifelong faith and service. Psalm 71 testifies to this same truth. Verse 17 says “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.” This is our Pentecost Offering. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

*Let us pray ~*

*Transforming God, We give thanks that  
your Spirit renews us with visions of a  
world filled with goodness and hope.  
As we strive for the well-being of all, keep us  
mindful of the promise of our children,  
youth and young adults.*

*Amen.*

## 7 RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

This guide serves as a basic introduction to the Pentecost Offering, but there are many other ways to learn more about the Offering and stay in touch with the Special Offerings. Your standing order contains the foundational materials you'll need to promote the Offering, and our website has even more.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ONLINE

Visit [specialofferings.pcusa.org/pentecost](https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/pentecost) for the following Pentecost materials:

- ❖ Downloadable bulletin inserts *Building A Life of Faith* and *Transforming Spirit*
- ❖ Downloadable poster
- ❖ A set of customizable power point slides
- ❖ Sample pastor's letter for reference when writing a letter to your members
- ❖ Facebook cover photo specially designed to use on your church's Facebook page
- ❖ Blog post or newsletter content that can be shared with your congregation
- ❖ Minutes for Mission in larger type for easy reading
- ❖ Downloadable Presbyterian Giving Catalog
- ❖ Recommendations and tips to involve your children and youth in the Pentecost Offering



PHOTO: FAITH IN 3D



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR INTERPRETATION

### *Educate A Child: Toolkit For Congregations*

The 221st General Assembly (2014) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) launched a churchwide initiative calling on Presbyterians to work with partners in the US and worldwide to improve the quality of education for one million children by 2020. This initiative builds on our strong Reformed heritage and Presbyterian history of both educational mission, and advocacy and support for access to public education.



To aid Presbyterians who seek to be engaged in this important work, the **Educate a Child Toolkit** provides practical tools and starting points for congregations working or seeking involvement with direct service and advocacy for education.

Want to start an education-oriented ministry in your congregation but don't know where to begin? Already have an education program but want to be more effective? Involved in direct service but looking for a way to participate in local education advocacy? Have great ideas for a ministry but looking for funding sources?

To explore this toolkit and other helpful resources, visit: [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/child/toolkit](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/child/toolkit), [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/child/resources/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/child/resources/)

### *The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Experience*



Please share this opportunity with all the young adults you know as we hope to place as many young people into this formational year of service as possible!

The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program is a faith-based year of service for young people, ages 19-30, in **20 sites** around the world and in the United States. **YAVs** accompany local agencies working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation while exploring the meaning and motivation of their faith in intentional community with peers and mentors. YAVs serve during the academic year, August to August.

Program benefits during the YAV year include a regular stipend, housing, transportation assistance and student-loan repayment options throughout the duration of the service year.

Follow [@yavprogram](https://twitter.com/yavprogram) for program updates and **apply today!**

Meet current YAVs, read reflections and blog posts, support volunteers and learn more by visiting [youngadultvolunteers.org](http://youngadultvolunteers.org)

Interested candidates can apply online today at: [youngadultvolunteers.org/apply](http://youngadultvolunteers.org/apply)

**March 1, 2018**

Round 2 – (Most sites available, final date to apply to international sites)

**June 1, 2018**

Round 3 – (National sites only, limited spots available)

# IMPORTANT DATES



## PLAN NOW FOR THE 2019 YOUTH TRIENNIUM

The Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a gathering for high school age youth from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that occurs every three years. The next Youth Triennium will occur in Summer 2019, July 16-20th. Mission resources for youth and adults who are interested in attending the Triennium will be available in late Winter 2018 at <https://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/>

## GETTING TO WORK

The Presbyterian Youth Worker's Association (PYWA) is dedicated to connecting, upholding, and inspiring Presbyterian Youth Workers to faithfully serve the triune God among young people. PYWA is for adult leaders of youth whether part-time staff, volunteers, retired pastors, college students, camp staff — all who are called to work among youth. To learn more, visit [pywa.org](http://pywa.org).



## QUICKSHEETS FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

Quicksheets are free, downloadable resources offering a singularly focused youth ministry lesson, idea, or viewpoint. Transform how you accompany young people through our ever-changing world with the user-friendly ideas found in Quicksheets. Quicksheets are written by experienced youth workers, instructors, educators, and “in the trenches” volunteers

## 2018 PENTECOST ORDER FORM

If you find you need additional copies of resources...

- ✦ Contact Presbyterian Distribution Service at **800-533-4371** between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST; email [customer\\_service@presbypub.com](mailto:customer_service@presbypub.com); or visit the Church store at [pcusastore.com](http://pcusastore.com)
- ✦ Fax this order form to **800-541-5113**
- ✦ Copy or clip and mail this order form to **PC(USA) Store, Customer Service, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202.**
- ✦ Download copies online at [presbyterianmission.org/pentecost](http://presbyterianmission.org/pentecost)



*Building a Life of Faith insert*



*Transforming Spirit insert*

**ALL PENTECOST  
RESOURCES ARE FREE.**



*Offering Envelope*

QTY.	PDS#	UOM	ITEM
<b>ENGLISH RESOURCES:</b>			
	12144-18-032	Limit 2	Poster
	12144-18-033	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>Building a Life of Faith</i>
	12144-18-034	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>Transforming Spirit</i>
	12144-18-036		Leader's Guide
	12144-18-075	P25	Offering Envelope
	12144-11-037	P25	Children's Coin Box
<b>SPANISH RESOURCES (other available online):</b>			
	12144-17-055	P25	Offering Envelope

**SHIP TO:** (Please use a street address—FedEx cannot deliver to a PO box.)

CHURCH: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTENTION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ PIN/CUSTOMER I.D.#: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are only ordering Pentecost materials, then no sales tax or billing details are required. However, if this is part of a larger order, or you are adding non-Pentecost resources, sales tax and billing info are needed for your other items. Please add appropriate sales tax for orders being shipped to CA, DC, KY, NY, and PA.

Note: Orders will be shipped by USPS or FedEx unless otherwise requested. Please include a street address. Any special handling charges will be billed to the recipient.

Bill me (shipping and handling will be included). Will bill to listed shipping address unless told differently.

Check or money order enclosed (include 10 percent of the order total for priced items: \$5.25 minimum, \$65 maximum).



*The Holy Spirit remains with us, connecting us with the church of the past,  
continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future.  
Thank you for your support of the Pentecost Offering.*

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**

### **QUESTIONS?**

Feel free to contact us at **502-569-5047** or email [specialofferings@pcusa.org](mailto:specialofferings@pcusa.org)

PC(USA) Office of Special Offerings

100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

The Pentecost Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The four church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) — One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peace & Global Witness Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering — play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church. Over the years these offerings have provided ways for individuals and congregations to join together with each other and in partnership with other Christians in responding to a variety of concerns; and offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness that profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.